United Nations

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

◆ Secretary-General expresses deep regret over recent violent events in Haiti which, he says, pose grave threats to democracy; the Haitian Ambassador to the United Nations calls on the international community to help the Haitian people restore the democratic process.

◆ United Nations inspection team, which was detained in Baghdad, arrives in Bahrain to prepare report to Security Council.

◆ General Assembly is addressed by Prime Ministers of Hungary and Peru, and by Foreign Ministers of Bolivia, Syria and Cuba. President of Zimbabwe and Foreign Ministers of Kenya, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam and Qatar also address Assembly.

◆ World Economic Survey update says total global production and income have declined this year for the first time since Second World War.

◆ Decolonization Committee Chairman says focus of current session will be on Caribbean and Pacific Territories.

◆ Director-General appeals for international assistance for Africa's economic recovery and development, as Financial Committee begins work.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has expressed deep regret over the recent violent events in Haiti, where, according to press reports, 26 people had been killed and 200 wounded.

In a statement last night, the Secretary-General said he was worried about the fate of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who had been overthrown by the military, and disturbed at the grave threats posed to democracy, which the people of Haiti had just established through free and fair elections, with the assistance of the United Nations. He expressed hope that calm would soon be restored and that the democratic process would resume in accordance with the Constitution.

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The President of the Security Council, Jean-Bernard Merimee of France, said last night that the Ambassador of Haiti had informed him of the situation in his country. Mr. Merimee expressed his full support to the statement by the Secretary-General.

At a press conference today, Haitian Ambassador Fritz Longchamp said President Aristide was alive and well in Venezuela, and that, as far as the President was concerned, what happened yesterday was only "a brief interruption". He said President Aristide was expected to attend a ministerial level meeting of the Organization of American States (OAS) tomorrow in Washington.

The Haitian Ambassador said his Government wanted the international community to support the Haitian people in their effort to restore the democratic process, to "flatly reject the coup attempt", to express support for the democratic process in Haiti, not to recognize any Government or envoy that would come from the coup, and to state that the restoration of the democratic process in Haiti meant the reinstatement of Father Aristide in his capacity as President of Haiti.

The Haitian Ambassador also said his Government was disturbed by the reaction of the Security Council in not granting a meeting last night, because according to the Charter, any Member that has requested a meeting should be granted that request. He said members of the Council had decided it was an internal affair in which the Council should not get involved. He called the decision "unfair and a denial of Haiti's rights as a legitimate Member".

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The United Nations inspectors who were detained in Baghdad last week have arrived in Bahrain where they are preparing a report on their mission to the Security Council.

After being detained by Iraqi authorities in Baghdad for four days, the team was released on Saturday morning with the documents they had uncovered on Iraq's nuclear development programme. The team completed its work on Sunday with the inspection of four additional sites.

Team members are expected to leave Bahrain and arrive in Vienna on Friday for meetings on the mission's results with the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency and other officials.

In a related development, concerning allegations that the team had transmitted communications to Washington, a United Nations Spokesman told correspondents today that the inspection team did not have FAX facilities, that they did transmit documents by reading them on the telephone and that "by their own admission they did transmit documents to Washington by telephone". The Spokesman went on to say that if that was the case, "it was most improper and regrettable, and they were told not to do so. And they were told it was

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most improper".

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The first speaker in the General Assembly debate this morning, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Bolivia, Carlos Iturralde-Ballivian, said his country had contributed to the struggle against drug trafficking, but much remained to be done. The concept of alternative development, which meant replacing the coca economy by a diversified, internationally accepted alternative economy, had been presented for the first time by President Jaime Paz Zamora of Bolivia.

The Bolivian Foreign Minister noted that the principle of collective or shared responsibility between producer and consumer States must be emphasized. He said his country had an obligation to add its voice to the continuing appeal for a prompt and effective increase of financial and technical resources, to adequately carry out existing programmes nationally, regionally and world-wide.

In his statement, the Prime Minister of Hungary, Dr. Jozsef Antall, said that three and a half decades had passed since the people of Hungary stood up against the communist dictatorship and foreign occupation under the banner of freedom, independence and democracy.

Now, he said, the objectives of 1956 had been fulfilled and his country had indeed become free, independent and democratic, "where the profound changes are irreversible". In June this year, he said, the last units of Soviet troops had left Hungary.

He then turned attention to the tragic events in Yugoslavia, saying there was a mistaken belief in world public opinion that there was a cease-fire violated by sporadic incidents. "In reality", he said, "there is an ongoing cruel war there". He called for continued efforts by the international community to put an end to the bloodshed.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Syria, Farouk Al-Shara', said his country, having faced continuous occupation and aggression for decades, now had found an historic opportunity in the new international changes to rectify wrong situations in its region; clarify facts that had been distorted; restore lands that had been occupied and rights which had been usurped; and participate in establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

He called for the elimination of the substantial causes which had prompted the United Nations to adopt the resolution equating zionism with racism, stating that repealing this resolution first required the termination of Israeli occupation of Arab lands, and the restoration of the right to self-determination by the Palestinian people.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Isidoro Malmierca, today praised the achievement of the Cuban revolution saying his country would not renounce socialism. He also drew the Assembly's attention to the continued "total

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economic blockade" launched against Cuba in 1962 by the United States, which banned the import of Cuban goods, all goods coming from and through Cuba, and later the supply of medicines and foodstuffs. He said the estimated damages caused by the blockade over the past 30 years amounted to over $15 billion.

Mr. Malmierca also spoke about the presence of foreign troops on Cuban soil, saying that the Government of Cuba would be willing to accept the simultaneous withdrawal of Soviet and United States military personnel from his country. He said that would be the only "equitable, just and honourable action under the present circumstances".

In his statement, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Peru, Carlos Torres y Torres Lara, noted that international security was today determined by elements beyond considerations of a mere military and strategic nature; they were closely related to social and economic challenges. The Peruvian Minister proposed the convening of a World Summit for Social Development; it was necessary that a new and enhanced approach to social issues be tackled within the United Nations.

Mr. Torres y Torres Lara then addressed the illegal action of drug trafficking linked to terrorism, which, he said, had caused profound negative effects in his country. To overcome that situation, the President of Peru had initiated an integrated policy of drug control and alternative development. Included in that policy was the creation of secure property rights for farmers, the deregulation of markets for other crops and citizen participation in the rule-making process.

Opening this afternoon's Assembly debate, the President of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe, urged the implementation of collective security arrangements based on the Charter of the United Nations, including the possibility of assigning national military contingents to serve under the authority of the Security Council.

He also called on the developed countries to show the necessary cooperation and support in addressing the acute problems facing the developing countries in the areas of protectionism in trade, commodity prices, external debt, transfer of resources and transfer of technology. He expressed hope that the Europe of 1992 and other emerging trading blocs would keep their doors open and not become "trade fortresses".

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Kenya, Wilson Ndolo Ayah, underlined the necessity for the international community and the African countries to renew their commitment to a new agenda of cooperation for sustained social and economic development in Africa. To achieve that goal, he said, urgent action was necessary to accelerate economic growth to an average real growth rate of at least 6 per cent per annum of gross national product throughout the period of the new agenda, with the aim of increasing income and eradicating poverty.

He also drew attention to the situation arising from the traffic of refugees seeking temporary relief in his country, with the assistance from the

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United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other donor agencies. The dimension and the complexities of that problem were far beyond the resources of Kenya, he said, calling for urgent assistance from the international community.

In his statement, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, Rashid Abdullah al-Nuaimi, acknowledged that among the lessons drawn from the Gulf crisis is the potential for devastation in acquiring arms in general and weapons of mass destruction in particular.

He said his country's position had always been to render the Middle East region free from weapons of mass destruction. The Minister told the Assembly that the United Arab Emirates supports the initiatives and efforts aimed at the prevention of producing, acquiring and stockpiling those weapons, as well as the destruction of those in stock.

In his statement to the Assembly, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, Tran Quang Co, said that the attendance for the first time at a United Nations General Assembly of the delegation of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia as well as the agreements reached among the Cambodian parties at the recent meetings of the Supreme National Council on the internal aspects of a solution to the Cambodian question were new important steps in the process of restoring peace in that country.

Mr. Quang Co reiterated the position of his Government whereby it would respect any decision of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia on all matters pertaining to Cambodian sovereignty, and said Viet Nam was ready to join efforts with parties concerned in order to reach a comprehensive, fair and reasonable political solution to the Cambodian question.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, Mubarak bin Ali Al-Khater, stated that the events of August last year had confronted the Arab States of the Gulf region with their collective responsibility to preserve their peace and ensure their territorial integrity. He said those States had unanimously determined to set forth, in participation with some other Arab States and some friendly nations, security arrangements that would ensure the non-recurrence of what happened last year.

In his statement last night, the Minister for External Affairs of Gambia, Omar Sey, stated that continued international pressure on the South African regime had yielded some positive results. Nevertheless, he said, the dismantling of the legislative pillars of apartheid does nor go far enough. What was urgently required, in his opinion, was the practical elimination of apartheid in all facets of South African society and this called for the enfranchisement of all South Africans. His Government, he said, was unreservedly committed to the attainment of this objective.

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According to the United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, 1991 will mark the first year since the end of the Second World War that total production and income in the world have declined.

The information was contained in an update of the World Economic Survey which was released today. The update says that in every other year, the economic downturns in some countries were offset by economic growth in others. However, this year economic decline is so widespread -- and so deep in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union -- that it fully negates the positive impact of the more dynamic economies.

The pattern of developments broadly follow the lines anticipated in the 1991 World Economic Survey which was published in June. However, the degree and spread of economic contraction appear to have been underestimated. The update says that global recovery is still expected to begin in 1992 and to be rather slow.

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The General Assembly's Fourth Committee (Decolonization) began today its work for the current session, hearing introductions of two draft resolutions.

By one draft text, the Assembly would call upon all States "to take urgent, effective measures to terminate all collaboration with the racist regime of South Africa, in particular in the military and nuclear fields", and to refrain from entering into other relations which run counter to the maintenance of existing sanctions against the regime.

By the other draft resolution, the Assembly would "strongly condemn the continuing collaboration of certain countries with the racist regime in the military and nuclear fields" and would call for termination of all such collaborations.

In an opening statement, the Chairman, Charles S. Flemming (Saint Lucia), said that the Committee would focus its attention on the remaining 18 Non-Self-Governing Territories which were located predominantly in the Caribbean and Pacific subregions.

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The Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, in a wide-ranging review of the world economy this morning before the Second Committee (Economic and Financial), made a strong appeal for international assistance for Africa's economic recovery and development.

Director-General Antoine Blanca also said that the still-fragile political fabric of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe could be threatened by the economic problems they faced in the transition from a centrally planned to a market economy. The staggering cost of that transition was now only being realized, he said, unless substantial assistance was offered to those countries.

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